



RSPCA STATEMENT

Dangerous wild animal licence for Peckham resident

February 2007

A Peckham resident has been granted a licence to keep a clouded leopard in his garden. The decision, made by the local authority this week, was taken despite the fact that the man lives in a terraced house in a busy residential area.

The RSPCA has expressed concern about the decision and has called on the local authority to employ an inspector with experience in big cats to advise on the safety and animal welfare issues involved in this case. An RSPCA spokesperson explained that it would be very difficult to provide the leopard with a large enough enclosure and that the only justification for keeping such animals is for properly-managed breeding programmes designed to re-establish these endangered animals back into the wild.

The RSPCA is also concerned that the animal may escape. "If this happens, it would almost certainly have to be shot and killed and this process would cause the animal immense stress," said the spokesperson.